



CODE OF CONDUCT

In any healthy democracy, the ability of non-party campaigners to ensure that the wider civil society is able to engage in the democratic process, in an informed and comprehensive manner, is absolutely essential.

However, it is equally important to ensure that the activities of those who have volunteered their time to do Voter Registration (VR) drives do not bring into question the integrity of our campaign or the electoral process.

This Code of Conduct should be read by every HOPE not hate and Ben & Jerry's volunteer and should be made available to all those civil society organisations and individuals who want to carry out VR drives with us.

1. Where possible, HOPE not hate volunteers will offer people the chance to register online.
2. HOPE not hate volunteers will only use the VR form approved by the Electoral Commission, which can be found on our website.
3. If people want to register to vote by post or by proxy, HOPE not hate volunteers will either hand out or direct people to all the relevant forms approved by the Electoral Commission, all of which can be found on our website.
4. HOPE not hate volunteers will explain to every elector they register that they will not be able to vote in person on polling day if they apply for and are granted a postal vote, and will not be able to vote in person if their appointed proxy has already voted on their behalf.

5. HOPE not hate volunteers should not encourage electors to have their postal ballot pack redirected to anywhere other than the address where they are registered to vote.

6. HOPE not hate volunteers should ensure that the local Electoral Registration Officer's address is ALWAYS provided as the preferred address for the return of duly filled VR forms or of postal or proxy vote application forms.

7. HOPE not hate volunteers should send on UNALTERED any completed VR forms given to them to the relevant Electoral Registration Officer's address within TWO WORKING DAYS of their VR drive.

8. HOPE not hate volunteers SHOULD NEVER agree to act as appointed proxy voter for an elector they have helped to register to vote. They will always encourage the electors to consider other options for people to act as a proxy – including relatives or neighbours.

9. HOPE not hate volunteers SHOULD NEVER touch or handle anyone else's postal voting ballot paper or returning envelope.

10. If ever in doubt about the legal or logistical requirements of a VR campaign, HOPE not hate volunteers are strongly requested to contact us at Elisabeth@hopenothate.org.uk

Best of luck defrosting democracy,

Elisabeth

VR Campaign Manager

www.hopenothate.org.uk/educational/vr/